

The Great Amusement Park

By Jonathan Elliott

Interior. Dorm room at Berkeley. Credit titles read "Berkeley – 1968"
Joe and Alfie are smoking grass listening to "In the White Room" by Clapton.
There is a knock at the door.

Room Monitor
Hey boys, letters for each of you.

Alfie
Letters make me nervous man.

Joe
Open yours first.

Alfie
I've been drafted.

Joe
Me too.

Alfie
What are we going to do?

Joe
Man I have to see Disneyland
At least once before we
Get killed.

Alfie
I'm with you man.

Gail and Renee arrive.

Gail
What's up fellas?

Alfie
We're taking a road trip
To Disneyland
Before we go to Vietnam
And get butchered like

A pair of roasted pigs.

Renee
Really, can we go?

Joe
Absolutely...

Exterior. The Parking lot. They roll out and head out of town. Giggling and screaming.
"Disneyland here we come..."

Sign reads "THE Present"

Interior. Early evening. The plush Offices of Medea, Inc. Joe Brodsky is an advertising executive on his way to the top. He is looking over some graphic designs when the phone intercom rings. It looks like a color version of the memory of them leaving...
A group of people having fun in a car.

Secretary (v.o)
Joe, your wife is on line three.

Joe
Hey honey. What's up?

Cut to:

Interior. Evening. The kitchen of Joe Brodsky's house. Stephanie is applying the icing on the birthday cake.

Stephanie
I just called as a reminder.

Cut to:

Interior. Joe's office.

Joe
A reminder. A reminder of what?

Cut to:

Interior. Joe's kitchen

Stephanie
Your daughter's fifth birthday
Party tonight.

Cut to:

Interior. Joe's office.

Joe
Ah yeah yeah yeah. I remember.
Of course honey. Six o'clock, right?

Stephanie (v.o)
Five thirty!

Joe
Right. I'll be there.

Enter Steven Jones,
A young executive.

Joe
Yes?

Steven
Can I have a minute.

Joe
Sure Steven. Sit down?
No honey, not you.
I have to go now.
There's a client account waiting.
I'll see you later, o.k.?
Bye. (pause)
What can I do for you Steve?

having

Steven
I'm ~~hang~~ having a little trouble
With the color scheme on this
Zippy toy account thing.

Joe

Joe

What's bothering you?

Steven

Well, are we looking for a
Warhol modern pop art
Type thing or a trendy upscale
Modern nouveau scale?

Joe

Whatever makes you
Feel good about it Steven.

Steven

Whatever makes me feel good, hmmm.
Can I take another day with it?

Joe

You can have twelve hours.
I need that by 10 tomorrow
Morning you know that.

Joe straightens his tie.
Bill Pollocks enters,
The CEO.

Bill

Joe, are you ready?

Joe

Ready as I'll ever be for rheumatism.

Steven leaves.

Bill

It's not rheumatism Joe. It's much,
Much bigger than that.

They start to walk down the
Hallway. People
Are scurrying back and forth.

Interior. Hallway. Evening.

Bill

I have some news for you before we go in.

Joe

News? Good news or bad?

Bill

I don't know. It depends
How you take it.

Joe

Well should I be braced against a wall, or sitting
Down, leaning against a filing cabinet,
Clutching a telephone? How should I take this?

Bill

Just keep walking. Like nothing's happening.

Joe

Am I being let go, fired, dumped?
What is it Bill? Tell me. For god's sake
I can't stand the way you build suspense.

Bill

I'm stepping down, retiring.

Joe

And? What does this have to do with me?

Bill

You're taking over. You are going
To head this company.

Joe (deep sigh)

Well gosh Bill. I don't quite know
How I feel about it?

Bill

It'll be something you need to
Adjust to, as I did. After all,
Medea, Inc does more than
3 billion dollars a year

Bill, can't

in corporate advertising. The job
is not just one small task.

Joe
You said it.

Bill opens a door.

Bill
We'll talk about this later.
For now. Relax, enjoy the
Presentation.

Interior. An oval presentation office. The lights are low and there are many men
smoking cigars. A younger man is at the front with a slide projector remote control in his
hand. He is Trent Darby, a Medea account exec.

Trent
As you know, our client, Evergreen
Senior Facilities has contracted us
To build up their name and market
Presence across the Nationwide
Frontier of America.

Clicks first slide of a man
In an oxygen mask.

Trent
Next year, four out of every ten
Seniors will require some type
of hospice care. (pause)
The numbers in terms of
Actual dollars move into the
Billions.

Louis (an exec)
Is this a print campaign
Or national commercial
Spotage?

Trent
My idea is for a little
Bit of both.

Bill

You want to know my thoughts?

Trent

Of course Bill.

Bill

Try to focus on one or the other.
Don't try to mesh the two
Mediums. It ends up
Confusing the consumer as
To the level of the quality
Of the service.

Joe

Good point Bill. Can I talk
To you outside?

Bill

Gentlemen, ladies,
If you'll kindly excuse us
For a second.

They step into the hallway.

Bill

What is it Joe? I thought
We were just getting rolling
In there.

Joe

Not that geriatric treatment
Isn't the thrill of a lifetime
Bill, but I have to take a
Break from this tonight.
My daughter's turning. Six. Uh. Five.
Something like that.

Bill

Well you go ahead Joe.
Give her a big kiss.

Joe

Thanks Bill. Thanks.
I owe you a lunch or

Something.

Bill

No. Just have a good time.

Interior. Joe's office. Joe is flipping a pencil on his desk. He looks out the window. He has a vision as a helicopter turns towards the building.

Cut to:

Credit titles read "Da Nang, 1969". Late afternoon. Joe and Alfie are soldiers on a hill in the heat of combat as bullets fly in all directions. Alfie has a big Afro. He's a young African American soldier, Joe's best friend.

Joe

You o.k. Alfie?

Alfie

I'm o.k.

Cut to:

Interior. Night. Joe's office. He's still tapping his pencil on the desk. Sweating a bit as the helicopter comes closer. Closer. *fade out & cut to*

Interior. A bar in Saigon. Joe and Alfie are playing against several Vietnamese soldiers.

Joe

Let me get two cards. No three.

Alfie

I'm good.

Joe

You're good. Jeez.
You sure?

Alfie

Sure I'm sure.
Would I say I wasn't sure
If I wasn't sure.

Joe

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I don't know. You might.

General Vo
Hey party boys. 2
Can we close this out.

Joe
Yes sir. Two pairs.

Alfie
Full house.

General Vo
I'm afraid I win with a pair
Of Aces.

He shows his cards
There are no aces.

Alfie
You don't have a pair of aces.

General Vo
Behind you.

Guns are drawn and
Joe and Alfie are taken
Prisoner.

Joe
God you're a disappointing cheater.

They smack him.

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Interior. Joe's office. Present day. Evening. Watches the helicopter fly beyond the building and looks at the people below, all on a way somewhere. He grabs his coat and Hat, starts for the elevator. He gets in. the doors close. He starts down, alone, closes his eyes.

Interior. A Vietnamese prison. Joe is on a chair, tied, being interrogated by General Vo.

General Vo
You're a stinking capitalist
Pig. A product of industrialist
Bourgeoisie philandering
That has plundered and raped
Our beautiful land.

Joe
You just hate to lose
At cards don't you Vo?

General Vo
Enough to tell you your
Partner has already been
Killed.

Joe
No. Not Alfie. No.
No! *Alfie... no... Alfie...*

Interior. The lobby of the building. The elevator doors open and Joe still hears his own screams as he walks out the door and grabs a cab.

Interior. Cab. The driver is Middle Eastern and listening to Iranian music.

Rafi
Where you going?

Joe
Googies bar in the Village.

Rafi
Oh yeah, that's a nice place.
A lot of cool girls. You
Want to buy some nice hashish?

Joe
No thanks. This isn't a big
Party night for me, Wednesday.

Rafi

Rafi

Thursday.

Joe
Huh?

Rafi
It's Thursday.

Joe
Right.

Rafi
Here it is... five dollars.

Joe
Thanks.

Interior. Evening. Googie's bar in Greenwich Village. Joe is sitting at the bar. General Vo is sweeping up in the corner. Joe doesn't seem to notice. Alfie is seated next to him.

Bartender
Another Vodka Joe?

Joe
One more. One more quick one.
For good ole' times sake.

Alfie
For good ole time's sake.

Joe (turning)
Do I know you?

Alfie
I don't know. DO you?

Joe
It's just... Nah...

Alfie
What? Say it.

Joe
You look like somebody
I used to play cards with.

Alfie
Is that it? Just cards?

Joe
Nah.. We killed together
In Vietnam.

Alfie
Yeah.. that's more like it.
Circle get's the square.

Joe
Alfie. Alfie Hudson?
Is that you? It can't be you.
Vo told me you were dead..
He told me he killed you.

Alfie
Ahh here we go. More Gen. Vo
Screwed with my head stories.
You wouldn't believe how many I've heard.
He just put me in another
Network is all. He's over there...

Vo is gone.

Alfie (continuing)
Well, anyway. He was over there.
Or I've been drinking too much and
He's the one who is dead.
I don't remember anymore...
Not even your....

Joe
Joe, Joe Brodsky, from California.
Remember, we fought in
The Infantry together.

^{Joe}
Went to Berkeley together. . . .

Alfie

My god. Joe Brodsky, Joe
With the bad cards and
Gets us tortured Brodsky.
Good lord. He told me
You were dead too.

Joe

I guess that proves it.

Alfie

What.

Joe

He really is a motherfucker.

Alfie

Yeah. But he
Let's me drink free in here
So keep it down.

Joe

Shhh.. yeah I understand.
What do you do now?
Where do you live? God it looks
Like you haven't showered in...
God... months... years..

Alfie

Since February anyways.

Joe

Tell me everything.
What happened? After
The bar.

Alfie

Jesus Christ, Joe, after
The bar. That was 1968 or
Something wasn't it?
Feels like we're still in it.

Joe
I guess we are.

Alfie
I guess so.

Joe
Show me where you live.

Alfie
Huh? You must be crazy.

Joe
No. show me. I want to
See everything.

Alfie
You really must be nuts.
Are you serious?

Joe
Yeah. Come on Alfie. Show me.

Alfie
Let's take a walk.

Joe pays and they start to walk.

Exterior. New York City. They reach a subway.

Joe
Where we going, uptown, downtown?
The Burroughs?

Alfie
You see those stairs.

Joe
Yeah.

Alfie
That's where *I live.*

Joe

Jesus. Alfie. I can't believe it.
Did something snap?
What happened man. You were
So bright, young, capable.

Alfie

I guess, like so many of us.
I just couldn't handle
The bullshit.

Joe (thinking)

There must be something...
Something I can do...

Alfie

Well why don't you go home to your
Wife and kids and think about it..?

Joe

How did you know I have a wife and kids?

Alfie

You just seem to be wearing them.

Joe (laughing)

It's true. I do. I do wear them.

Alfie

Well you think about it
Joe. I'll see you again.

Joe

Promise.

Alfie

Promise.

Interior. Noah Brodsky's apartment. In the corner, Michael's fifteen year old son is listening to "Black Sabbath." Noah is watching the honeymooner's, not paying attention. The doorbell rings.

Noah
Who is it?

Joe
Dad, it's me. It's Joe
Your son.

Noah
I don't have a son. He's
An ingrate.

Joe
I brought a chocolate pie.

Noah
Let him in.

Joe
What's up fellas?
It's Annie's sixth birthday
So I thought I'd bring
You something to celebrate?

Noah
That's nice.

He goes to sleep.

Joe
Dad, don't fake narcolepsy with me again.
Save it for social services.

Noah
All right already. Cut the
Social services cracks. They'll
Cut me off.

Joe
They won't cut you off Pops.

Noah

Noah

Oh yeah. How do you know?

Joe

Because you are the oldest meanest
Man in the world and that in itself
Is a disease.

Noah

Thank you very much. I'll take that
As a compliment.

Joe

It's just the truth.
Anyway, Michael looks busy.
I should go.

He waves goodbye.
Michael waves too.

Joe

Goodnight all.

Noah

And if I never see you
Again....

Joe

It'll be too soon.
I know Pop. Always
A charmer.

Noah

You said it.

Joe

Goodnight.

Departs.

Interior. Googie's bar. Joe is at the bar with a lovely call girl.

Joe

What an evening.

Doris
You want to talk about it?

Joe
I got promoted.

Doris
You don't sound thrilled.

Joe
It's all too much for me.

Doris
What do you mean?

Joe
Too much responsibility for
Me at this point.

Doris
It must mean more money?
You should be happy.

Joe
I am a little happy.
A little nervous is all too.

Doris
You want to go someplace?

Joe
Where to?

Doris
I don't know, anywhere.

Joe
I don't know. What's your
Name?

Doris
Doris.

Joe

Joe.

Doris

Nice to meet you Joe.

Joe

And you Doris.

Doris

Come on, I know a place.

They depart.

Exterior. Night. The bar.

They get in a cab.

Cabby

Where to?

Doris

The Sherry Netherlands.

Joe

God.

Doris

What?

Joe

Can't you pick someplace more, uh,
Incognito?

Doris

How about the Essex House.

Joe

That's fine.

Interior. A room at the Essex House. Late that night. . Doris and Joe are in the room together.

Doris

Do you know how this works?

Joe

No, tell me.

Doris
I'm \$125.00 an hour or
Five hundred all night.

Joe
That's it?

Doris
What do you mean that's it?
I could raise my prices
If you like.

Joe
No, I mean, you sell yourself
Short don't you think?

Doris
What do you mean?

Joe (coming closer)
I mean a girl as pretty
As you should be more
Expensive.

Doris
You're nice.

Joe
How about three hundred
For two hours.

Doris
That'll do.

They make love.

Additional Motel scene here
~~interior~~

Interior. Later that night. Rudy comes home and there are balloons on the floor and his wife Stephanie comes down the stairs with a party whistle.

Stephanie
Well if it isn't the party pooper.

Joe
I'm sorry hon. I had
To work late on the
Evergreen account.
You want to hear the
Good news?

Stephanie
Oh, there's good news?

Joe
Bill is retiring and
He's giving me his job.

Stephanie
Well that's something to
Be awfully proud of.

Joe (leading her up the stairs)
Come on. I'm tired.

She turns off the lights and they
Go up.

Joe's
Interior. ~~Rudy's~~ psychologist's office. Morning. Dr. Lafferty is at his desk and *Joe* ~~Rudy~~ is
On the couch.

Dr. Lafferty
When did it start?

Joe
After he promoted me.

Dr. Lafferty
Were the hallucinations audio
Or visual?

Joe
You mean like, did I hear things
On the radio or television?

Dr. Lafferty
No, I mean did you hear voices in
Your head or actually see things?

Joe
I just had a memory is all.

Dr. Lafferty
A memory of what?

Joe
Getting beaten, tortured
In Viet Nam. Playing
Cards in Saigon. The
Day I got drafted. That
Sort of thing.

Dr. Lafferty
Is it the first time you
Experienced these memories?

Joe
Yes.

Dr. Lafferty
What do you think triggered them?

Joe
I can't say. Maybe the pressure
Of finding out I'm going to be
In charge.

Dr. Lafferty
That's quite an accomplishment.
Congratulations.

Joe
Thanks.

Dr. Lafferty
Let's go back to the hooker thing.

Joe
You like that?

Dr. Lafferty
Not particularly. Given the
State of your marriage, which I say
Up till now has been healthy
I must tell you I think it's
Disgusting.

Joe
Well that's what I pay you for.
Go ahead and give it to me
Doc.

Dr. Lafferty
Give you what?

Joe
I don't know. Is there a prescription
For infidelity?

Dr. Lafferty
Not that I know of. I think
It's something you need to sort
Out for yourself.

Joe
What do you think I should do?

Dr. Lafferty
Whatever your heart tells you.
Did you enjoy it?

Joe
Well, I uh, I guess so.

Dr. Lafferty
Do you think you will ever
Do it again?

Joe
I can't say for sure.
I just can't predict that
Far in advance.

Cut to:

Interior. Greg France's office. Late morning. He is a graphic designer in the company. Jimi Henrix is playing "Crosstown Traffic" while he applies the last Licks of an airbrush onto a poster of a grandma playing electric guitar When Joe walks in.

Greg
Hey.

Joe
Hey.

Greg
How's it going?

Joe
That's what I came to ask you.

Greg
Well, what do you think?

Joe
Let me see if I get this straight.
You have Grandma playing an
Electric guitar.

Greg
Yeah man. Can you dig it?
It's for the people magazine
Spread. It's cool don't you think?

Joe
Cool. Yeah dig it. Hey
I have another idea.

Greg
Oh man are you about to
Bum my trip here or what?

Joe
Probably. If it goes well.

Joe

I just don't see grandma
Playing electric guitar.
Not in this campaign.
Not ever.

Greg
Didn't my skateboarder
Thing go over well last year 2
For the power drink campaign.

Joe
That was different Greg, the
Skateboarder was twelve years
Old.

Greg
Man, you are really tripping on
This aren't you?

Joe
Heavily. Why can't you put
Grandma in an oxygen tent,
Something realistic.

Greg
Realism. I see what you're saying.
Totally. Realism. Got it.
Give me three hours.

Joe
Client is coming for review at
Two. You have an hour and
A half.

Greg
Man. Would they give Michelangelo a
Deadline? Dali? Picasso?

Joe
Take an hour and forty.

Greg
I love you man.

Joe
I'll talk to you later.

Greg
Bring me my Bette Midler
Tape back!

Joe
Gotcha.

Interior. Halway. Late Morning. Joe is walking down the office, secretaries crossing his path, busy and working. Lillian is a secretary who stops him.

Lillian
Joe, is that you?

Joe
Yes Lillian. What can
I do for you?

Lillian
Bill Pollacks wants to
See you in his office.

Joe
Which one? The back office
Or the meeting room?

Lillian
The back office.

Joe
Wow, how exciting.
I haven't traveled that far down
The hallway in a long time.

Lillian
And give him these.
His messages from this morning.

She hands him a stack.

Joe (walking down the hall, reading)
Call from client regarding
Rent a car account. Call regarding
Dinner with the Vice-President. Call

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From Lawyer regarding the
Network law suit... Jeez he's
Busy.

He knocks
We here a voice
Bill (v.O.) "Come on in"

He enters.

Interior. Bill's office. An incredibly long table with the old man seated at the last possible chair.

Bill
You had a good night last
Night, I trust?

Joe
Nothing special.
You know. The usual.

Bill
I know. Anything
You want to tell me?

Joe
Anything?

Bill
Anything special?

Joe
I don't understand.

Bill
You don't understand.

Joe
I don't...

Bill slams down a copy of
The National Enquirer.

There is a picture of Joe
Walking out of the

Essex house with the
Call girl. The headline
Reads "Medea , Inc's
Newest President caught with his
Pants down?"

Joe
Jeez. God that's an ugly
Headline.

Bill
Lucky for you my college
Roommate owns this
Paper and we got the
Heads up. Our company
Bought every edition this
Morning to save your marriage.

Joe
I hope it works.

Bill
I thought you and Stephanie
Were fine. What's happening?

Joe
I don't know Bill. Maybe
It's the pressure of the job.
Maybe I'm just feeling old.

Bill
If you're lucky you get
To feel a lot older.

Joe
I know Bill. I know.
Thanks for the effort
Anyway.

Bill
You're welcome.
Now get back to work.

Joe
Will do.

He exits.

Interior. Strip bar. Afternoon. We see a dancer move slowly across the stage to Aerosmith's "I'm Back In the Saddle Again." Joe is seated at the bar. A girl Comes over.

Cindy
How are you today?

Joe
Pretty good. And you?

Cindy
Inexpensive. How about
A lap dance?

Joe
What do they cost?

Cindy
Twenty dollars for a song.

Joe
Can I pay for three in advance?

Cindy (takes his hand)
Come on.

Interior. The back room of the Strip club. Joe gets a lap dance.

Interior. Joe's Cousin Mitchell's apartment. A bunch of guys are at the table playing poker.

Mitch
All right fellas. Five card stud.
Aces wild.

Noah
Huh, what. I can't hear you.

Joe
That's just Dad trying to psyche

Joe

Everybody out in the beginning.

Joe (into his ear)
Five card stud, Pop

There is feedback from
His earpiece.

Noah
Got it. Thanks

Frank
Anybody see the papers today?

Mitch
No why?

Frank
Tigers beat the Yankees
In twelve innings.

Noah
Whew...?

Mitchell
You don't have to sound
So fuckin relieved.

Noah
I was just thinking about
Something else.

Frank
What's that?

Noah
Nothing. Nothing in
Particular.

Mitch
You're acting mighty
Peculiar tonight Joe.

Joe
What do you mean?

Mitch
Quiet. Real quiet.

Joe
I'm just tired. I have
A lot on my mind.

Mitch
Yeah, did she blow you?

Joe
Whoever she is that's on
Your mind.

Mitch
You're a disgusting pig
Mitch. If you weren't
My cousin I probably wouldn't
Talk to you.

Joe
Ever.

Mitch
Ever? Is that a promise. Cause
I'll throw you out the
Fuckin door right now
If you want to insult me.

Noah
Come on. Come on. Let's
Just shut up and play some cards.

Frank
How did I marry into this
Crazy family.

Noah
Remember, you said she
Had great legs.

Mitch
Ahhh, that's the stuff..
Everybody bet.

Noah
Three dollars.

Joe
The minimum is five dollars
Pop.

Noah
Five dollars then.

Mitch
Who needs cards?

Frank
Two.

Joe
Three

Mitch
I'm taking two. Did anybody
Hear about the dockworker's strike. ?

Joe
What do you mean?

Mitch
First strike since world war ii.
They say we might be eating
Old fish for the next few weeks.

Frank
That sounds terrible.

Joe
Awfully fishy huh?

Frank
What?

Joe
The strike. I mean, they have

Joe

It pretty good.

Mitch

What the hell do you know Joe?
You're at the top of the world
Upstairs there. You don't know
What it's like. Don't say you do.
When you clearly don't.

Joe

All right. All right. Take it easy.

Noah

I think they'll blow it out of
Proportion.

Joe

What do you mean.

Noah

I mean, whenever they strike,
They blow it out of proportion.

Mitch

Well there is a genius reasoning
If I ever heard one.

Frank

It makes sense to me.

Noah

They'll probably get into fish fights.
Start throwing the fish around
Everywhere.

Joe

Come on.

Mitch

Bet!

Frank

I'll see it.

Joe

Me too.

Mitch
I'm out.

Noah
Full house.

Joe
I can't touch that.

Frank
Me neither.

Noah
Ah ha.ⁱ

Joe
You always have a good start
In this game, huh Pop.

Noah
Usually. Then you have a way
Of talking me out of it.

Joe
Come on.

Mitch
No , it's true. You run your mouth.

Frank
He's right.

Joe
O.K. I'll shut up.

Interior. Stephanie and Janelle are in the Kitchen talking. Late afternoon.

Janelle
What do you mean you don't trust him?

Stephanie

Stephanie

He came home awfully late last night.

Janelle

And there's something about that
You don't trust."

Stephanie

There's something, just something
I can't quite put the finger on.

Janelle

Why don't you hire a private investigator
And follow him around a few days?

Stephanie

I'm scared what I'd find out.

Janelle (laughing)

I don't blame you.

Stephanie

No really. I'm afraid he'd take
Some picture that would
Crush me emotionally.

Janelle

And spiritually too, huh. 7

Stephanie

Yeah. That too.

The two little girls run in.

Annie

Mommie, mommie, she pulled my hair.

Stephanie

Try to get along kids.
Huh. For a change?

Cut to:

Interior. Night. The poker table.

Mitch
What the hell do you mean I cheated?
There's no way in hell I cheated.

Noah
You rigged the cards.

Joe
Come on guys.
You're acting like a bunch of kids.

Frank
No I saw it. He cheated.

Mitch
Obviously, I'm dealing
To a bunch of morons. 7
Can we get on with this.

Frank
I'm for that.

Mitch
O.k. Fat frank, you deal.

Frank
I'm insulted. I'm not Frank.

Mitch
I'm sorry. Just a figure
Of speech. I didn't mean it.

Frank
O.K. but watch the language
Will ya?

Noah
He's hopelessly over
Sensitive.

Joe
Obviously.

Frank
All right, allright.

Frank

Seven cards stud. Black moriah.

Joe
What's that?

Noah
Highest spade in the whole
Takes half the pot.

Frank
Everybody understand?

Joe
Got it.

Noah
Capice

Mitch
All right by me. Deal.

Joe
Did you bring any chips or anything?
My throat is getting kinda dry.

Mitch
DO I look like the Avon lady.
For Chrissakes, play cards. 2

Joe
All right. All right.

Noah
Jeez.

Mitch
What?

Noah
You know in the old days,
Nobody had time for chat like
This. They'd just shoot each other.

Frank
You'd know, eh old timer?

Mitch
His last card game was with
Billy the Kid.

Noah
Wisecracker.

Joe
Yeah, shut up and play cards.

Interior. Stephanie in the kitchen. Later that night. She's tapping her toes, staring at the Food on the table.

Stephanie
I'm so tired of this Joe. You
Wouldn't believe.

She dials.

Interior. The card game. The phone rings.

Mitch
Hello?

Stephanie (v.o)
Is my bum there?

Mitch
Yeah hold on.
Hey bum. You here?

Joe
Hi honey. What?
Of course I forgot dinner.
I wouldn't be here if I
Didn't. Can't you feed
It to the cats or something?
I'll be home soon.
Yes. I promise. Did you
Forget my poker game?

She hangs up.

Interior. Googie's bar. Joe is at the bar with the girl on the right and Alfie on the left.

Joe

All I ever wanted was a
Normal life. Why is it that
The more success I achieve,
The more complicated it seems.

Alfie

Man, you need to simplify.

Joe

Yeah, simplify. What do
You mean by that?

Doris

I think he means you need
To detach yourself from
The material world and
Seek your spiritual self.

Joe

That's not what...

Alfie

Exactly. That's what I mean.

Joe

Really.

Alfie

Really man. I can't even take this
Conversation.

Joe

Why not?

Alfie

It's oppressive. Man it's like
Rubbing salt in a wound or something.

Joe
Man are you over dramatic.

Alfie
Come on.

Joe
No man. We haven't seen each other
In thirty years and
You are having trouble with the conversation?

Alfie (to Doris)
Do you blame me?

Joe
Now leave her out of it.

Doris
Well I agree with him anyways.
You are acting like a child.
A small child.

Joe
Am not.

Alfie
I need another drink.

Joe
Bartender. Three more
Vodka tonics.

Alfie
I want a scotch and water, man.

Joe
So what? We're drinking vodka.
Nah... I'm just being a bastard.
Get him a scotch.

Alfie
Thanks man.

Joe
Your welcome.

Alfie
Here's to old friends.

Joe
To old friends.
And new ones.

They clink glasses.

Doris
You guys going to need anything tonight?

Joe
Why do you ask?

Doris
Because I see someone I know.

Joe
Well go. Go then. Don't let
Us hold you up from a shopping spree.

Doris
Have a good time.

Alfie
Right. A good time.

She leaves.

Joe
I'm going to make it up to you Alfie.

Alfie
Make what up? You don't
Have to make anything up Joe,
I believe you.

Joe
No, that's not what I mean.

Alfie
What do you mean?

Joe
Do you ever think about
The war Alfie?

Alfie
Sometimes.

Joe
What do you see.

Alfie
What do you mean?

Joe
When you close your
Eyes and think about it?

Alfie
Sometimes I think about...

Joe
The cardgame?

Alfie
Don't interrupt me.

Joe
O.K. I'm sorry.

Alfie
You should be. It's very rude
To interrupt a person when
He's just getting started. *you JUST DON'T DO THAT.*

Joe
I won't do it again. Promise.

Alfie
Good. Where was I? Oh yeah,
I need another scotch.

Joe

Joe

Bartender.

Bartender
What'll it be?

Joe
Another scotch for my friend.
I'm good.

Alfie
Sometimes I wonder. I wonder
If we were good. I wonder what
It was all about. What we did it for.
You know what I mean?

Joe
I know exactly what you mean Alfie.
I wonder the same things.

Alfie
Sometimes I see us in the fields,
Or in the trenches, or when we
First arrived. You know.
The innocents.

Joe
And then we learned to kill.
Lost our innocence.
It's far away now. Huh Alfie?

Alfie
No Joe, it's closer.

Joe
God dam it. You're right Alfie.
You're absolutely right.

Alfie
Nah. Just drunk.

Joe
I want to show you something
Tonight Alfie.

Alfie
You're not going to ask me to
Suck your dick tonight are you Joe?
Not even for three drinks.

Joe
No man. I want to surprise you.
Something better.

Alfie
Do I have to get up out of this
Chair to see it?

Joe
Yes as a matter of fact.

Alfie
Good.

Joe (paying the bar)
Let's go.

Exterior. Googie's. Later that night.

Joe
Taxi. Taxi!

Rafi
What's happening?

Joe
Hey man. Can you
take us to 81st and York. 2

Alfie
Uptown.

Joe
Oh yeah. Way up.

Alfie sits back and

Puts on sunglasses.

Joe
Nice shades...

Alfie
Yeah.. they cool.

Interior. Medea's Incs lavish Corporate Apartment. Joe and Alfie enter from the hallway.

Alfie
What's this?

Joe
It's our corporate apartment.
Typically we use it for
Traveling partners or
Clients. Usually it's
Unoccupied. If you
Want you can stay here
When it's empty.

Alfie sits on a couch.

Alfie
Does it come with room service?

Joe
Sorry?

Alfie
What am I gonna do when
I want to drink?

Joe
I don't know. There's a bar
Over there.

Alfie
Man. What can I say.
This is really something...

Joe hits the remote control.
The curtains open to a
View of the city.

Joe
Breathtaking, eh?

Alfie
Incredible.

Joe
Well enjoy.

Alfie is already asleep.

Joe
Sleep tight.

He departs.

Interior. Pscyologist's office. Morning. Joe is talking to the Doctor.

Doctor Lafferty
You sure it wasn't a hallucination.

Joe
I doubt it.

Doctor Lafferty
So, let me get this straight,
You saw a war buddy you thought
Was dead and put him in the
Corporate apartment?

Joe
Basically. Yeah that's it.

Doctor Lafferty
Did you ever stop to think
About what you were doing?

Joe
Not really. To tell you the truth,
I was drunk at the time.
Really seriously drunk.

Doctor Lafferty
Can I ask you a stupid question?

Joe
Sure.

Doctor Lafferty
Did you ever stop to think
That maybe it's about the girl.

Joe
What do you mean.

Doctor Lafferty
Well maybe you were afraid
Of the place being unoccupied
Because the temptation
Would be too great if you wanted
To bring the new girl there.

Joe
That's very insightful Doc.
Really you are a challenger
For Freud.

Doctor Lafferty
I'll take that as a compliment.

Joe
It was. Any suggestions now?

Doctor Lafferty
I would say just make sure
You get it cleaned up when
They need it.

Joe
God you're right about that.
I'm sure we'll manage.

Interior. Joe's Kitchen. Evening. Stephanie is at the table, tapping a pencil. Joe
Is reading papers.

Stephanie

What are you unclear about here?

Joe
The part at the beginning.

Stephanie
Which paragraph.

Joe
The part that says divorce.

Stephanie
What don't you understand Joe.
It's a divorce.

Joe
I guess I really messed up.

Stephanie
Oh I can hear that phrase
Just echoing through the
Hallways as you say it.

Joe
What does it sound like?

Stephanie
Like some very ancient
Cliché.

Joe
Come on... A cliché?

Stephanie
A cliché, you know Joe,
As in, something one says
Too much.

Joe
There must be something we can do.
Can't we talk about this.

Stephanie
Talking is the trouble Joe.
Lainy Edwards says she saw
You with a callgirl.

On Annie's birthday!

Joe

Jeez. And you believed her
That easily? How do you know
It wasn't just a friend from the
Office.

Stephanie

A call girl, a secretary. What
Does it matter Joe? A girl
Is a girl.

Joe

These are just family issues,
Honey. Why are you
Getting so upset.

Stephanie

You're just not the
Man I married I guess.
Why don't you mull
That over.

Joe (getting his jacket)

I'm going for a drink.
You think good and
Hard about this
Stephanie. I think
You are way off base with this.

Stephanie

And that coming from the
Home run king, huh?

Joe

Nice one, honey. Nice.

Interior. The limelight. A disco in New York. It's late and Joe is in line. Alfie
Approaches, dressed in a new suit.

Alfie

You like the new threads man?

Joe
Well, yeah. How did you
Come up with them?

Alfie
I sold the Tiffany lamp
In the dining room.

Joe
You're killing me.

Alfie
Don't worry man.
I bought a new modern
Italian job, no one
Will ever notice.

Joe
If Bill ever goes there
I'm dead.

Alfie
He'll thank you for it
Man, believe me.

Joe
I should have bought
The suit.

Alfie
It is a nice touch, man, huh?

Joe
You need me to cover
You at the door?

Alfie
Nah, I still got
Some change from the lamp.
Besdies, Ricky at the door is
From Recon, he's one of us.

They get to the front.

Alfie

Hey man, my friend's a little
Tapped, can you bring him up
With me.

Ricky

No problemo, Alfie.

Interior. The club. Night.

Joe

I didn't realize you were
So popular.

Alfie

It's nothing man.
Just people looking after
People, you know.

Joe

Yeah. That's a good thing.

Alfie

Man I really dig the hot tub
In the bathroom though.
I slept in it for two
Hours.

Joe

Really?

Alfie

Till my fingers were like
Prunes man.

Joe

Anything else I should know?

Alfie

Just we need more booze.

Joe
I figured. I'll send in a request
Monday. Anything else I
Should know?

Alfie
I'm a major player now, huh?

Joe
You were always a major player
Alfie. Always.

Alfie
Thanks man. Let me
Buy you one huh?

Joe
O.K. Vodka tonic.

Alfie
Right on man.

He goes to the bar and orders.

Joe (sees a girl)
Hey.

Mary
Hi.

Joe
What's your name?

Mary
Mary.

Joe
Where you from?

Mary
Las Vegas.

Joe
Really?

Mary
Yeah. Can I ask you
A question?

Joe
Sure. Go ahead.

Mary
Why are you talking to me?

Joe
I don't know. I guess I find
You attractive.

Mary
You look old enough to
Be my father. You have
A wife and kids at home
Don't you?

Joe
The honest truth?
Yes.

Mary
You want to dance?

Joe
Sure.

They start to dance.

Mary
There's something that turns
Me on about married men.

Alfie comes back.

Alfie
You should watch out, he's
HIV positive.

She goes away.

Joe
That was so unfair.

Alfie
Ah, you'll thank me for
It later.

Joe
No I won't.

Alfie
You and you're old lady
Are fighting huh?

Joe
How did you know?

Alfie
I could always read your
Face like a road map?

Joe
She caught me cheating.

Alfie
That's it? She want's to end
It over another woman?

They sit down.

Joe
I'm always working late. I
Never spend time with her.
It's a combination of things.

Alfie
Women, can't live with em,
Can't live without em.

Joe
Any suggestions?

Alfie

Can't you get into it man?
Flowers, candy, I'm sorry
Baby. Lay out the karma
Sutra oil. Give her a
Swedish massage.
Giver her the full workout.
White men don't know anything
About sex. Isn't that it?

Joe

I think you're probably right
About that.

Alfie

It's all in the approach man.
It's like your on the runway
And don't want to take off.

Joe

I'm hearing you.

Alfie

Yeah, but do you
Comprehend me?
I mean, you are listening
But are you understanding?

Joe

I think so.

Alfie

You have to know it.
You have to realize it.
Otherwise your
Out man.

Joe

I hear ya.

Alfie

Well, what do you intend to do?

Joe

Sign the papers.

Alfie
Are you prepared for it.

Joe
Michael already lives with
My Dad. The kids haven't
Been getting along for years.
Maybe it's for the best.

Alfie
Then why are you asking me?

Joe
I can't say. I just wanted
Another opinion is all.

Alfie
Well I fully believe in the
Sanctity of marriage.
Divorce is like a social disease
That effects everything around it.
Everything falls into sickness
From that point on. It's like a spiritual
Malady. It affects the view of everything.

Joe
We've been living like
Strangers for years.

Alfie
Well then maybe you're right.
Maybe you're right.

Interior. New York Subway train. Joe is riding the subway aimlessly.
We hear "Last stop." It's night. Joe gets out and spins around.

Joe
Where the hell am I.

Janitor
The Bronx.

Joe
Jeez, I don't live in the Bronx.

He gets back on the subway going the other direction.

Exterior. New York. We see Joe buying fruit at a small market.

Joe
Is all this fresh fruit?

Vendor
Yes all of it fresh.

Joe
Do you have fresh Strawberries?

Vendor
It's all fresh. Just take your
Pic.

Joe
You tell me?

Vendor
They're all good.

Joe
You sure?

Vendor
Sure I'm sure.
You don't like my fruit,
Find some other fruit.

Joe
I didn't say I didn't like it.

Vendor
O.K. then \$3.50.

Exterior. Washington Square Park. Breakdancers are working out a routine near the arch. Joe gives them money. He stopys over at a comedian giving a show
In the dried out fountain.

Comic

One out of every two
People is ugly.
Now look to your
Left. Look to your right.
If it ain't one of them
Guess what?

Joe catches a cab.

Joe

81st and York please.

He goes into the building. Interior. Morning. Knocks on the door. Alfie opens. He's smoking a cigar.

Alfie

Hello.

Joe

Before I go back to
Work.
Before I go back home,
Assuming I ever
Get back home.
I just want to know
One thing.
One thing, Alfie.
Can you tell me,
Give me an honest answer?

Alfie

Maybe, if it's not a
Trick question.

Joe

What is the last word
Alfie? What is the
Last word?

Alfie

The last word.
Not the first word.
The last word?

Joe
Yes. The last word.

Alfie brings him over to the window. A breathtaking view.

Alfie
Come here. Look at the whole
City. The soul of the city
Beating like a drum for you
Joe. Like an Afrikaan drum.
Are you ready?

Joe
Yes, give it to me.

Alfie
Gasp.

Joe
Huh?

Alfie
That's the last word.

Joe
Really?

Alfie
Yeah. G- A -S - P.
Gasp.

The end.